

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF CRAVEN RECONVENED ITS RECESSED SESSION OF JUNE 2, 2003 ON JUNE 11, 2003 AT 2:00 P.M. IN THE COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE CRAVEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 406 CRAVEN STREET, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO CONDUCT A BUDGET WORK SESSION.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Vice Chairman Lee Kyle Allen
Commissioner George Brown
Commissioner Bill Harper
Commissioner Perry Morris
Commissioner M. Renée Sisk
Commissioner Leon C. Staton

STAFF PRESENT:

Harold Blizzard, County Manager
George B. Sawyer, Assistant County Manager
Richard F. Hemphill, County Finance Officer
Ray H. Moser, Human Resources Director
Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk to the Board

County Finance Officer, Rick Hemphill, distributed a list of proposed changes to the FY 2003-2004 budget since the County Manager's recommended budget was presented, reflecting \$367,894 in additional appropriation of fund balance.

USSI MATTERS

County Manager, Harold Blizzard, reported on his meeting with the United Senior Services, Inc. Executive Board and some board members. He reported that a letter was requested from United Senior Services addressing how it would fix problems that have been identified. This is still pending the USSI's next board meeting. Mr. Blizzard recommended to the Commissioners an appropriation of \$75,000 to USSI, which represents one half of last years appropriation for the first six months of the fiscal year to be dispersed monthly pending results demonstrated at the six month mark. The remainder of the funding would be appropriated from fund balance, should the Board decide to move forward on funding.

Commissioners discussed their role in the organization of USSI, realizing that the operation of the agency is subject to USSI Board supervision and not the Commissioners. There was consensus that the USSI Board must commit to putting the study group's recommendations in motion in order to receive an allocation from the County. The consensus was to follow the Manager's recommendation. Commissioner Allen moved to accept the report of the study committee and to seek implementation of the plan presented, in letter and intent, as a consideration for determining an allocation according to the Manager's recommendation. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Mr. Blizzard suggested that November 1st be set as the date by which to determine whether or not the Board would go forward with funding for the remainder of the year.

PROPOSED RETIRED EMPLOYEE'S HEALTH PLAN

The Board received information from Human Resources Director, Ray Moser, concerning a proposed retired employee's health plan. He reviewed criteria to be included in the parameters for the study that will take place prior to implementation of the plan.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND RESCUE SQUADS

The Board reviewed tax rates for Township 1, Township 5 and Little Swift Creek Fire Departments, and revisited the Havelock Rescue Squad contract. Commissioner Morris expressed the desirability of treating all squads consistently, with the County doing collections for all or none of them. The consensus of the majority of the Board, with dissent by Commissioner Allen, was to direct staff to draft the Havelock Rescue Squad's contract to be more consistent with contracts of other squads in the County. The County will begin collecting for the Havelock Rescue Squad and the contract will stipulate that the squad will receive 45% of collections.

At 3:05 p.m. the Board went into closed session by motion of Commissioner Sisk, seconded by Commissioner Brown to discuss a personnel matter.

At 3:10 p.m. the Board returned to regular session. There was no action reported.

At 3:15 p.m. Commissioner Sisk moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously carried.

Chairman Johnnie Sampson, Jr.
Craven County Board of Commissioners

Gwendolyn M. Bryan, Clerk